
THE FORMER and PRESENT

S T A T E

OF

TWO FELLOWSHIPS

IN

CLARE-HALL.

PLATE 2

TWO FELLOWS

CLAREMONT

The FORMER and PRESENT

S T A T E
O F

TWO FELLOWSHIPS

I N

C L A R E - H A L L,

FOUNDED by JOHN FREEMAN,

O F

Billing, in Northamptonshire, Esq;

ANNO 1622,

A N D

Next after his KINDRED and BLOOD appropriated when VACANT to THOSE born in the *Two Counties* of NORTHAMPTON and LINCOLN.

W I T H

TWO LETTERS from the MASTER,

A N D

ONE from his LOCUM TENENS.

Publish'd for the BENEFIT of, and in an HUMBLE APPLICATION to, the TWO COUNTIES.

By a former FELLOW.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the YEAR M.DCC.XLV.

STATE

TWO FELLOWSHIP

CLARK

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

TWO FELLOWSHIP

ONE FELLOWSHIP

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

W. J. VON

The FORMER and PRESENT

S T A T E

O F

Two Fellowships, &c.

COPY of a CLAUSE in the COVE-
NANTS between the Executors of
John Freeman, of *Billing*, Esq;
and *Clare-Hall*, Anno 1622.

SAVING always that according to the
Mind and true Intent of the said *John*
Freeman express'd in his last Will and
Testament, they the said Master, Fellows and
Scholars shall in such their Nomination and
Election principally respect such as are of the
Kindred and Blood of the said *John Freeman*
to be first and before all others, prefer'd to such
of the two Fellowships, eight Scholarships, or
two

two poor Scholarships respectively, as shall hereafter happen to be void, if any of the Kindred or Blood of the said *John Freeman* shall be then fit for the said Fellowships or Scholarships respectively.

And in case none of the Kindred or Blood of the said *John Freeman* shall then be fit for those Fellowships or Scholarships respectively at the Time of the Vacancies of the same, then in the next Place, those are to be prefer'd into the said two Fellowships, eight Scholarships, and two poor Scholarships, that are, or shall be born in the County of *Northampton*, and in the third Place, those that are or shall be born in the County of *Lincoln*, the Parties born or to be born in either of those two last mention'd Counties, being found as fit and worthy as others, as shall be Competitors with them for the said Fellowships or Scholarships.

During the first hundred Years after the Foundation of these Fellowships, Scholars were sent from the two Counties, in Hopes and Expectation of them, neither is there any one Instance that can be given, of any one of another County being prefer'd, to one born in *Northamptonshire* or *Lincolnshire*.

The present Master, born at *Grantham* in *Lincolnshire*, was, as is well known, sent from
thence

(7)

thence on Purpose for one of these Fellowships, and was elected, by virtue of the Preference given in the above Covenants, Fellow of this Foundation, in Preference, to one at least, his Senior afterwards chose Fellow.

But since this Time the Practice of the College, has been strangely altered. Eighteen Years ago, when the present Master was removed to the *Clare* or old Foundation (as is the Custom of the College to do in other Foundations) Mr. *Nicholls*, then Scholar of the College, and not born in either of the two Counties, was elected Fellow of this Foundation, in Preference to Mr. *Falkner*, born in *Lincolnshire*, who is now living in very good Repute and very considerable Figure, at *Well* near *Alford* in that County, and has communicated a modest Account of his Case.

There was indeed no Pretence of want of Character, as to his Sobriety or Regularity, in the College, but it was not to be expected, the Master should say any thing of his having a Senior Optime, *which is reckon'd so great a Proof of good Proficiency in Learning*, that in *St. John's College* by far the most numerous in the University, it gains a Seniority over those, who had it before by Admission.

It farther appears by Mr. *Falkner's* Letter, that the then Master and two of the Fellows
Seniors

Seniors to Dr. *Wilcox* were his Friends, and for the *Propriety*, but forbore being present at the Election, because they foresaw Dr. *Wilcox* (then Fellow only) and his Friends, were resolv'd to set aside the *Propriety*, and therefore left it to him to make and confirm the Election, and admit Mr. Nicholls his *Pupil*, contrary to the Covenants, Fellow of Mr. *Freeman's* Foundation.

It also appears that Mr. *Falkner*, appeal'd to the then Vice-Chancellor and Ordinary Visitor Dr. *Snape*, who accepted the Appeal, and had proceeded so far as to call a Congregation for the Election of two Doctors to be his Assessors, according to the Statutes of the College, but was prevented from proceeding, by a Prohibition from the *King's-Bench*, upon Mr. *Hopkinson's* (then Fellow, and late Rector of *Pattingham*, a College Living) delivering it as his Opinion to the Court upon Oath, that the said Vice-Chancellor had no Visitatorial Power, as Mr. *Falkner* has been inform'd.

It farther appears by a Copy of a Receipt in the said Letter (in which it is a Cause *Wilcox v. Snape*) that the present Master was made the Principal in the Cause, by acting as the Master's *Locum Tenens*, the then Master, and two Fellows, Seniors to Dr. *Wilcox*, absenting themselves from the Election.

Mr.

Mr. *Falkner* being a Man of good Fortune, and very near marrying, did not think it worth his while to pursue the Matter any farther, so Mr. *Nicholls* continued in quiet Possession of the Fellowship.

From this Account there appear so many Marks of Violence and Partiality in the first Denial of this Propriety, that, it is conceiv'd, it is so far from being a Precedent against it, that it is a strong Presumption, that every Thing that has been done since, has proceeded from Malice prepense; for since Mr. *Falkner's* Rejection, no one born in either of the two Counties, has been chose Fellow of Mr. *Freeman's* Foundation, nor any more than one Fellow of any Foundation in the College.

But there have been several Proceedings since in the College, with relation to this Matter, which seem plainly enough to intimate an Inclination, if not a Resolution, to deprive all those born in the two Counties, of all Benefit of the two Fellowships, enjoy'd by them for the first hundred Years after the Foundation of them. As

I. When the Rev. Mr. *Hopkinson* (at present the Senior Fellow but one of the College, younger Brother to Mr. *Hopkinson* mentioned in

B

Mr.

Mr. Falkner's Case) was chose Fellow ; it happen'd, that one of the Fellowships of his Foundation, was fill'd up about six Weeks before, with one of another County, which seems plainly enough to intimate, that it was the Inclination and Resolution of the Master and Fellows at that Time, to avoid giving Mr. *Hopkinson* any Preference as born in *Lincolnshire*, that the Claim might thereby come into Disuse and be forgot.

II. About six Years ago when the Rev. Mr. *Neale*, now a Senior Fellow of the College, was chose Fellow of Mr. *Freeman's* Foundation, the Rev. Mr. *Laurence* born in *Northamptonshire* was Scholar of the College, of the same Standing with Mr. *Neale*, and who had receiv'd much greater Encouragement to expect a Fellowship, than ever Mr. *Neale* had done, who has declar'd, that when he took his Degree, the *Midsummer* before he was elected, he had no Expectation of being Fellow. Mr. *Laurence* afterwards stood for another Fellowship, and had the Votes of some of the Fellows, who were not aware of his having had any Injustice done him before, by his Propriety being conceal'd from him, there being but few of the then, or present Fellows *who knew any thing of it*. The secreting the Preference of those born in *Northamptonshire* from Mr. *Laurence*, seems to be manifest Proof, of a Resolution

(II)

tion in the Master and Fellows, to have no Regard, for the Time to come, to the afore-said Preference: And the rejecting him afterwards, seems to be a natural Consequence of what they had done before, in order to the Concealment, of their having so *clandestinely* violated the Will of the Founder.

III. About three Years ago, Mr. *Whitehead* born in *Cambridge*, was elected Fellow on this Foundation, when the Rev. Mr. *Calthrop* born in *Lincolnshire* was, as is believ'd, Scholar of the College, without his knowing any thing of his County Preference. Mr. *Calthrop* had received great Encouragement to expect a Fellowship, and was very desirous of one, but afterwards left the College, upon finding so many of his Seniors, were likely to be chosen before him. It is however of no Consequence, whether Mr. *Calthrop* was actually of the College, when Mr. *Whitehead* was chosen, or no; since it is plain no Regard was had to Mr. *Laurence*, who certainly was of the College at the Time of an Election into this Fellowship, and kept in Ignorance of his Preference; and Mr. *Calthrop* was certainly discouraged from keeping his Name in a little before the Vacance of one of these Fellowships, and would have been glad to have accepted it, and ought therefore to have been encourag'd to stay for it, *Countymen having been formerly even fetch'd back*

to College after they had left it for one of these Fellowships.

IV. *Robert Mapletoft*, now Scholar of the College of Mr. *Freeman's* Foundation, and born in *Northamptonshire*, having put in his Claim of his County Preference, has been rejected, and Mr. *Talbot* born in *Bedfordshire*, and a Year his Senior, prefer'd before him.

And that there may be no Suspicion of want of Character in the said *Robert Mapletoft*, it is thought fit to publish the two following Certificates procur'd *Pendente Lite*.

COPY of the CERTIFICATE given by the
MASTER.

“ THIS is to certify, That *Robert Ma-*
“ *pletoft*, B. A. Scholar on Mr. *Free-*
“ *man's* Foundation in *Clare-Hall*, did appear
“ to me on Examination for his Degree in
“ College, before me and the Fellows as good
“ a Scholar in Classfical Learning, as any ex-
“ amin'd at the same Time, and that I always
“ thought he had a very good Character with
“ all the Fellows, and was very deserving of
“ it.

April 10,
1744.

J. WILCOX, Master.

C O P Y

COPY of the CERTIFICATE of the JUNIOR
PROCTOR and the two MODERATORS.

“ **W**HEREAS the Rev. Mr. *Mapletoft* made Application to us, de-
 “ siring to be satisfied, whether the *Optimè*
 “ conferred on his Son was procur’d by any
 “ Interest or Sollicitation: We whose Names
 “ are underwritten do declare the said *Optimè*
 “ was given him for his Merit, without Regard to
 “ any Application from any Person whatsoever.

Francis Burton, Jun. Proctor.
S. May,
S. Whisson, } Moderators.

The said *Robert Mapletoft* moreover offer’d himself to be examin’d, tho’ no one now Fellow ever was in order to be elected. And after he was rejected by the unanimous Consent of the Master and Fellows, (which in such a Case is the highest Proof possible of a Conspiracy) the Father of the said *Robert Mapletoft*, waited on the Rev. Dr. *George*, Provost of *King’s-College*, the then Vice-Chancellor, and Ordinary Visitor of the College, who related to him, that the Day before the Election, the Senior Fellow of the College had been with him, to acquaint him, that this Appeal would probably be made to him, and then farther acquainted

quainted him, with what had been done in a Case of the like Nature in the Time of his Predecessor Dr. *Snape* (as has been related in the Case of Mr. *Falkner*) which the said Vice-Chancellor gave as a Reason for not interposing in the Cause.

After this a Letter was writ to Mr. Commissary *Greaves*, formerly Fellow of *Clare-Hall*, to the following Purpose, " That upon the
 " Difficulties suggested by him, and the Master's having acquainted him, that he desir'd
 " him to inform me that he should be glad to
 " have no Litigation about the past Election,
 " That he for his Part would chuse the Party
 " in his Turn Fellow, and he made no doubt
 " the Society would do the same : To which it
 " was agreed, provided the Fellows were of
 " the same Sentiments, &c." The Master under writ the above Letter in the following Words.

S I R,

" **M**APLETOFT continuing to be-
 " have himself well, as he has hitherto
 " done, I shall be very ready to promote his
 " being chose Fellow in his Turn, and believe
 " the Fellows whom I will take the first Opportunity of consulting, will be dispos'd to
 " chuse him.

J. WILCOX.

The

The Vice-Chancellor had been acquainted with this Proposal, so that it was thought necessary to comply with it to avoid the Imputation of Litigiousness, tho' indeed it never was confided in.

The Fellows moreover, then in College, some Time after the Master's Promise, made a Declaration, " That what had pass'd with respect to the late Election, should be no Objection against chusing Mr. *Mapletoft* Fellow in his Turn." And Mr. *Godard* who made the Report, added, That he should not be his Friend if he advis'd him to take out his Name.

Tho' this Declaration indeed, fell much short of what was promis'd and expected, yet it was acquiesc'd in, for the Reasons just mention'd; till upon the best Judgment, that could be made, it seem'd highly probable, before this Cause was reviv'd, that this Promise and Declaration would have no Effect. Mr. *Bouchery*, the fourth Senior Fellow, and most remarkably united to Mr. *Godard*, the Master's Perpetual *Locum Tenens*, in his Absence has declar'd his Dislike of this favourable Intimation of the Fellows. He was in College, and writ to, at the same Time Mr. *Godard* and two more were so, and Mr. *Godard*'s Letter in which he says,
Pro-

Proprieties are always look'd upon as odious, and great Bars in the Way of the Deserving, seems to contain theirs, as well as his own Opinion.

Mr. *Bouchery* has not only condemn'd the Agreement betwixt the Party's Father and the Master, for avoiding all Litigation, but tho' absent from the College, has complain'd of Rudeness offer'd by the said Father, expressing himself, *That he us'd the Fellows like Boys*: Tho' Mr. *Godard* after the Election was over profess'd a great Respect for him in his own Name, and that of all the Fellows. Mr. *Bouchery* when it was demanded of him by Letter, either to justify, or deny those Words, so highly reflecting upon the Character of any One with respect to Prudence, never condescended to do either. And when Mr. *Bouchery* was press'd to come into the good Humour the College seem'd to be in, when the above Declaration was made, he was so far from allowing that be any Argument for promising his Vote, that he profess'd it was more likely to have the contrary Effect, neither could he be prevailed upon to give any Hopes of his Favour. Mr. *Bouchery* being so strictly united with Mr. *Godard*, so considerable a Person in himself, and of so much Weight in the College, great Stress must be laid upon what came from him.

And what Mr. *Neale* another Senior Fellow, and Curate of *Broughton*, a Living belonging
to

to Mr. *Mapletoft* has been known to say, is agreeable to this Account: He indeed shew'd no want of good Wishes and kind Intentions, but express'd his Fears very strongly, that the College had taken such Offence, there were but little Hopes.

The Master also was writ to, with Intimations of Doubt about the Event, but did not think fit to clear them, only express'd his own Readiness, *as far as was consistent with his other Obligations*, which shew'd there were Obligations still remaining, that might be too powerful for his Obligations to serve him.

And besides it was the common Report (to which in such Case Regard is always to be had) both in and out of the College, that a final Exclusion from all Fellowships, would be again as it had been before the Consequence of the Denial of the Propriety, the first Rejection being certainly much harder than any other could be, and was no more than what must be expected.

From all these Premises it appears,

I. That for the first hundred Years after the Founding of these Fellowships, those born in the two Counties had a full Allowance of the Preference given them by the Covenants.

C

II. Tha

II. That in the Compass of these last eighteen Years, Mr. *Falkner* was actually rejected, without being able to procure the Benefit of an Appeal.

III. That Mr. *Hopkinson* born in *Lincolnshire* (Brother to Mr. *Hopkinson* mention'd in Mr. *Falkner's* Case) wav'd his Claim to one of these Fellowships, and was elected Fellow of another Foundation, and as is believ'd, is the only Person of either of the two Counties, that has ever been chose Fellow of any Foundation, since Mr. *Falkner's* Rejection.

IV. That Fellows have been twice chose of this Foundation, when there were Scholars of the College capable of them, without letting them know the Preference given them by the Covenants; which is an evident clandestine Violation of them: Neither of which Scholars were ever chose Fellows afterwards, and one of them actually rejected.

V. That *Robert Mapletoft* now Scholar of the College, has lately been openly rejected from one of these Fellowships, and has had great Reason given him to think he never shall be chose Fellow at all.

From whence it plainly follows,

I. That

I. That those born in the two Counties, will lose all Preference given them by the Covenants, and enjoy'd by them 100 Years.

II. That no One born in either of the Counties, will ever be chose Fellow of *Clare-Hall*, at least without renouncing his Claim to such Preference.

III. That the ordinary Course of an Appeal, having been twice eluded, no private, or single Person, can well be suppos'd of Weight enough, nor an Injury done to one single Person of Importance enough to procure Justice to be done to the two Counties.

It is therefore humbly submitted to the Consideration of all born in the two Counties of *Northampton* and *Lincoln*, and all having Interest in them, whether they will add their Weight and Influence, in Support of the Complaint of the abovesaid *Robert Mapletost*, in whom the Rights and Privileges of all so born, have been apparently injur'd. To which Purpose, it is conceiv'd, it would be thought sufficient, to make some publick Declaration of their thinking themselves aggriev'd, by the College having deny'd the Preference given by the Founder, and allow'd by the constant Practice of 100 Years, by the Masters and Fellows of the same,

to those born in the two Counties, agreeably to the Mind and true Intent of the above Clause of the Covenants, and the Practice of their own, and other Colleges in such Cases.

COPY of the MASTER's first LETTER,

Cambridge, Feb. 7, 1743-4.

Dear S I R,

“ YOUR Letter did not come to me till
“ the last Post, you do me Justice in
“ thinking me not forgetful of old Friendship,
“ and that I want no Inclination to do your
“ Son the best Service in my Power. I have al-
“ ways indeed had his Interest much at Heart, and
“ taken all Opportunities of recommending him
“ to the Society in such a manner, as I judg'd
“ most proper. His Character is very good, I
“ believe them to be well dispos'd towards him,
“ and have pleas'd myself with thinking, they
“ would give him all Encouragement in due
“ Time.

“ Your Son will have completed his Degree,
“ before any Nomination into a Fellowship of
“ Mr. *Freeman's* Foundation can well come on,
“ as being of *Northamptonshire*, he will have a
“ Claim to be prefer'd before others into a
“ Fellowship of that Foundation, *and if that*
“ *be insisted on, a just Regard must be had to the*
“ *Founder's*

“ *Founder's Will.* But it then must be con-
 “ sider'd this will give him no sort of Right of
 “ Preference to a Fellowship of the old Founda-
 “ tion : Those who are his Seniors, but in this
 “ case will be chose into the Society after him,
 “ will never be perswaded that this is reason-
 “ able, nor do I think that the Fellows in Ge-
 “ neral can be prevail'd upon to think it so.
 “ But what I think deserves more to be con-
 “ sider'd is, *That one chose into Mr. Freeman's*
 “ *Foundation, by virtue of this Claim, prefer-*
 “ *able to others, well approved of by the Society,*
 “ *will have but little Hopes of ever being remov'd*
 “ *from thence into the old Foundation. The old*
 “ *Difficulty, you well remember, would return*
 “ *with all its Force, and I am at a Loss to know*
 “ *how to overcome it.* Several would be engaged
 “ by their Interest to oppose such Removal,
 “ more now than formerly, an old Foundation
 “ Fellowship being much more valuable since
 “ the College has been possess'd of Advowsons.
 “ I thus sincerely give you my Thoughts
 “ at present, and your own Recollection of our
 “ Affairs, will enable you to judge of the Ad-
 “ viseableness of what is the Subject of your Letter.

I am,

Dear S I R,

Your most Affectionate,

Humble Servant,

J. WILCOX.

N. B.

N. B. What is said in the Master's Letter, of the Adviseableness of accepting this Fellowship, implies no Difficulty in the getting it, and as to the Consequence of having it, the being excluded from the old Foundation (tho' the Fellows were of a contrary Opinion from the Master, as will be seen in the following Letter) it is of no Importance in this Dispute, which is about obtaining this Fellowship, which was earnestly desir'd, let the Consequence be what it would, and offer'd to the Master to be accepted, tho' any other Gentleman had the Profits of it till another Fellowship fell for him.

But it is fit it should be observed, that notwithstanding the Master's representing the Difficulty of a Removal so insuperable, he himself came in by Propriety and was remov'd; no one has come in by Propriety since, and all have been remov'd from this Foundation into the Seniority, and it would seem perverse in the College to exclude Men, purely for being brought in, in pursuance of the Will of the Founder, which is the only Argument that could have been made use of in the present Case, there not being one of the same County now Fellow, whereas when Dr. *Wilcox* was remov'd, there was one of his County.

COPY

COPY of Mr. GODARD's Letter, Perpetual
Locum Tenens in the MASTER's Absence.

Clare-Hall, Feb. 22, 1743-4.

Reverend Sir,

“ YOUR first Letter I was favoured with
 “ on *Saturday*, your last I received *Yes-*
 “ *terday*. I am very sorry you should think I
 “ was any ways out of Humour either with
 “ yourself or your Son. I do assure you I
 “ have the same Respect for you, and the same
 “ Kindness for him I always had. He was
 “ mistaken in telling you I express'd any Sur-
 “ prize or Disgust, in not hearing from you so
 “ long, I only meant to prevent his being sur-
 “ priz'd at my mentioning nothing about his
 “ Pretensions, by giving him to understand
 “ you had not writ to me about the Affair, as
 “ the Master inform'd me you intended. I
 “ have, Sir, as well as the Society present, con-
 “ sider'd very carefully what you advance
 “ in Favour of your Son's being chose into the
 “ vacant Fellowship of *Freeman's* Foundation,
 “ and it is still our Opinion there may be some
 “ Danger of his not being remov'd into the
 “ Seniority, if he comes in upon a Propriety,
 “ *Proprieties being always look'd upon as Odious,*
 “ *and great Bars in the Way of the Deserving,*
 “ and

“ and when your Son comes to be next in
 “ Turn for a Senior Fellowship, there will be
 “ five of his Juniors, who will be always glad
 “ to make the most of this Objection. *How-*
 “ *ever I agree with you that in his natural Turn*
 “ *he ought to come in notwithstanding his Pro-*
 “ *priety, tho’ this Case is not likely to come on*
 “ whilst I am in the Society. You will farther
 “ consider your Son has only a Conditional
 “ Propriety, the Words of the Settlement are,
 “ *They (i. e. the Northamptonshire Men) being*
 “ *found as fit and worthy as others as shall be*
 “ *Competitors with them.* Now I think it very
 “ likely that some of his Seniors, will be found
 “ more fit and worthy with regard to Learning
 “ than your Son. However if it be your fix’d Re-
 “ solution he should offer himself, I will take
 “ Care to have him nominated, and will endea-
 “ vour that Justice be done him. I also pro-
 “ mise you never to vote for any One pre-
 “ ferably to him that is not his Superior in
 “ Merit. Mr. *Courtail*, Mr. *Bouchery*, and
 “ Mr. *Neale* send their humble Service, and as
 “ they with the other Fellows are of the same
 “ Opinion, they thought you would excuse
 “ them answering your Letters. I will take
 “ Care to give your Son all the necessary Di-
 “ rections, about his Application to the So-
 “ ciety. The Master went from College *Yes-*
 “ *terday*, he is still of Opinion that upon the
 “ Whole it is not adviseable for your Son to
 put

“ put in his Claim. The Nomination will not
 “ be till the End of next Month. I am never
 “ in a Hurry about sending your Son's Bills,
 “ knowing so well who I have to do with,
 “ and with your Leave I will send both Bills
 “ together next Quarter. I thank you for your
 “ kind Intentions of admitting another Son here,
 “ and I hope you are perswaded I am heartily
 “ dispos'd, to shew all the Favour I can to your
 “ Son now with me, consistently with what I
 “ owe to my other Pupils.

I am,

Reverend S I R,

Your most Faithful

and Obliged Humble Servant,

PETER GODARD.

COPY of the MASTER's second Letter.

Kensington, Feb. 28, 1743-4.

Dear S I R,

“ I Found your two Letters here the last
 “ Week, your third by Way of *Cambridge*,
 “ came to me the following Day.

“ I could not satisfy myself when I writ to
 “ you last, without putting you in Mind of the
 “ future Consequence, there might *possibly* be
 “ of your Son's insisting on his County Pre-
 “ ference. I consider'd a *Freeman's* Fellow-
 “ ship as of little Value, if it prevented a Re-
 “ moval into the old Foundation, and wishing

D

“ your

“ your Son better, could not forbear saying
 “ what I did. *There is no Reason I hope to ap-*
 “ *prehend any sort of Reluctance in the Society*
 “ *against paying all the Regard that can be due to*
 “ *their Covenants with that Founder.* He has
 “ given a County Preference, if they are as fit
 “ and worthy as others *who are Competitors*
 “ with them they are to be prefer’d. All this
 “ I presume will readily be allow’d, but then
 “ I am very much of Opinion, the Society will
 “ never suffer this Preference, to give those
 “ Counties the Advantage above all others
 “ with regard to the best Preferments in the
 “ College, which are equally open to all Coun-
 “ ties without Distinction, there will always be
 “ Jealousy of this, and how far it may operate,
 “ is more than I can pretend to know. *I have*
 “ *had no Occasion to spend one Thought about an*
 “ *Affair of this Kind, for many Years last past,*
 “ till I received your Letter, I suggested to you
 “ what occur’d to me on Recollection, *and did*
 “ *not design to dissuade your Son’s insisting on his*
 “ *Claim, nor have I any Reason to be offended at*
 “ *it, since you judge it most for his Advantage.*
 “ I shall only add, that I shall be ready to pro-
 “ mote his Interest, *as far as is consistent with*
 “ *other Obligations;* and that I really am,

Dear S I R,

Your most Affectionate

and Obliged, Humble Servant,

J. WILCOX.

N. B.

N. B. The Words in the Master's Letter *who are Competitors*, is either a gross Mistake or Misrepresentation of the Covenants, to make the Words signify only *Cæteris Paribus*. vid. *Clause*, p. 1. *The Parties born or to be born in either of those two last mention'd Counties, being found as fit and worthy as others, as shall be Competitors with them for these Fellowships or Scholarships.*

In these Words it is plain no particular Election is spoke of, but all Elections into Fellowships and Scholarships: In which it is in the General required that those of the two Counties, should be as fit and worthy, as in General all others, of all other Counties, who are allow'd, and therefore suppos'd sometimes to be Competitors with them for these Fellowships and Scholarships, which is the true Meaning of the concluding Words, *as shall be Competitors with them for these Fellowships or Scholarships*, without which Words those of other Counties, could not have been capable of them; it being directly ordered before that one of the Blood and Kindred, or of the two Counties should be prefer'd into them. And it may safely be affirmed, that no One of any other County, was before the present Master's Power in the College, ever nominated with any One of the two Counties: Competitors of other Counties being only provided for the Case of no One fit and worthy being found.

It is therefore contended in Behalf of those born in the Counties of *Northampton* and *Lincoln*,

coln, That by the Masters and Fellows coven-
 nanting, next after the Blood and Kindred,
*principally to respect and prefer into these Fellow-
 ships, one so born, if he be found as fit and
 worthy as others, as shall be Competitors with him
 for these Fellowships or Scholarships,* is meant
 only, if they be as fit and worthy, as all others
 are and ought to be, fit and worthy to be chose
 another Time into a Free Fellowship. And
 that in case the Countymen are not so, that
 there might be no Necessity or Pretence for
 chusing an unfit or unworthy Person, all Persons
 of other Counties are made capable of being
 Competitors, by the Addition of the Words *as
 shall be Competitors with them for these Fellow-
 ships,* without which Addition (as was before
 observ'd) none but those of the two Counties,
 could have been chose, and the Fellowships must
 have been kept void, or fill'd perhaps to avoid
 their being so with unfit or unworthy Persons.

The Master and Fellows on the other Hand
 must and do contend in Defence of their Prac-
 tice, that notwithstanding the Covenants, they
 are at Liberty to chuse any Person they judge
 more fit and worthy, and in particular of greater
 Proficiency in Learning, how much Superior so-
 ever in Standing or Age, which is the same as to say,
*That by principally respecting and preferring in to
 these Fellowships, &c. no more is meant---*if they
 cannot find a better, which is the true Sense of
Cæteris Paribus.

This is making a Jest of the Clause and is
 ridiculous.

F I N I S.